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SPOT REPORT

SUBJECT: Possible Identification of Person in Photograph Released by the House Select Committee on Assassinations

DATE: 31 July 1978

REFERENCE: 30 July 1978 Newscast, Channel 5, WTTG

1. On 30 July 1978 the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) released several photographs and composite drawings of persons who the committee hoped might be able to "shed additional light on the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." The photographs were shown on a newscast on Channel 5 (WTTG) on 30 July. CIA Career Associate Petr Sergeyevich Deryabin, who saw the telecast, reported that the photograph showing a profile view of a man is that of Nikolay Sergeyevich Leonov, a "journalist" known to Deryabin as a KGB officer.

2. The July-August 1976 edition of the Soviet publication Latinskaya Amerika contained an article entitled "To Your Health! Fidel" by "journalist N. S. Leonov." Written in connection with Castro's 50th birthday, the article praised Castro highly and implied a personal acquaintance between Leonov and the Cuban leader. It also briefly mentioned that the CIA had planned "a physical liquidation of F. Castro." Deryabin comments that he knows "journalist" Leonov to be a KGB officer who has worked in Moscow headquarters as well as in Mexico and Cuba. He believes that Leonov's implied personal acquaintanceship with Castro in fact stems from his official position as a KGB officer.

3. Two photographs released by the HSCA were provided to the Committee by the Agency. They were obtained through a joint operation with the Mexican intelligence service in 1963. The Agency did not authorize release of the photographs by the HSCA to the press.

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